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Bangalore Mirror

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Android smartphones have the most AI-powered protections

A claim from a recent Counterpoint Research study:
"According to a recent evaluation of smartphone protection features, Android smartphones scored highest for AI-powered protections."

Android

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GET A TICKET

Performance targets set for ticket examiners yielding fruits as ticketless travellers face more heat, railways earns better revenue

PAGE 2

WHEN IN DOUBT...

Software professional narrowly escapes 'digital arrest' scam as suspicion kicks in due to informal and irregular nature of procedure

PAGE 5

Wear a sweater in the morning, regret it later in the day: Scientists explain how city's elevated location, combined with clear winter skies and calm winds are making it the perfect spot for fog, which clears quickly as sun comes out

LET THERE BE FOG LIGHT

All you need to know about temperature inversions

Iffath.Fathima
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Bengaluru's recent stretch of chilly mornings and thick fog has caught citizens' attention, challenging the common perception that such weather is typical only in northern India. Memes and photographs have gone viral on social media, but scientists told BM the answer lies not in anomalies, but in basic atmospheric physics.

Kamsali Nagaraja, Professor, Department of Physics, Bangalore University and Chanabasanagouda S Patil, Scientist, Meteorological Centre, in a paper explain the phenomenon.

Patil pointed out in the paper, "Bengaluru's elevated inland location, combined with clear winter skies and calm winds, allows rapid night-time heat loss from the surface. This cooling becomes strongest just before sunrise, leading to colder mornings and the formation of fog. As the ground cools after sunset, the air in contact with it also cools. When this air reaches saturation, moisture condenses into tiny droplets suspended near the surface, forming fog. Fog is essentially a cloud at ground level and does

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 »

"During foggy conditions, reduced visibility increases the risk of road accidents. Driving at lower speeds, maintaining safe distances, and using low-beam or fog lights can improve safety. High-beam headlights should be avoided

— Chanabasanagouda S Patil, Scientist, Meteorological Centre

High time to hire

State pollution control board set to recruit for 270 posts; environmentalists say address crunch fast as we need clean air, water

File photo of an abandoned quarry turned into a landfill

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) is all set to bolster its workforce by filling the majority of existing vacancies to strengthen the functioning of the Board.

According to KSPCB chairman PM Narendraswamy, the Board is looking to recruit for nearly 270 vacant positions.

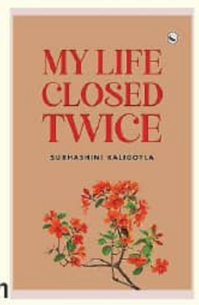
"While KSPCB's total sanctioned posts are 730, more than 300 of these posts are currently unoccupied. However, we have got approval from the state government to fill 80 percent of the existing vacancies. The Board is looking at filling in nearly 270 positions as soon as the matter of internal reservation is cleared by the Karnataka High Court," said Narendraswamy.

Earlier this month, the Karnataka High Court prevented the state government from implementing an increase in reservation under the Karnataka Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Reservation of seats in Educational Institutions and of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Poetic expression



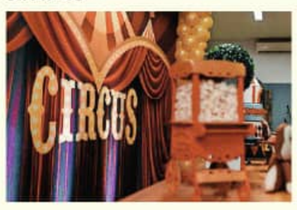
Author Subhashini Kaligotla will be launching her new poetry collection 'My Life Closed Twice', with Jeet Thayil. The collection charts the long aftermath of grief, and its recursive, obsessive cadences. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: Dec 28, 6.30 pm**

02 Tis the season

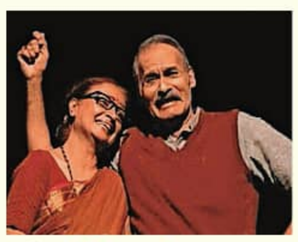
This festive season, SOCIAL is dialing up the chaos with a high-energy Christmas Eve celebration, inviting all to show up, dress up, and dance it out. **Where: All SOCIAL outlets in Bengaluru; When: December 24, 7 pm**

03 Fun n frolic

Olympian Circus, one of India's grandest circus extravaganzas, now featuring world-class international artists from across the globe, is bringing breathtaking performances and non-stop entertainment for all. **Where: Prestige Centre for Performing Arts, Konanakunte; When: December 25, 26 and 28**



04 Stage is set



Kalagangotri Team is presenting 'Sooji Mallige', a heartfelt social drama filled with emotion and values, narrating the tale of a couple— two lives intertwined, walking hand in hand through the journey of togetherness. **Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar; When: December 31, 7.30 pm**

05 Immerise verse

Piyush Mishra will be performing live as part of the Aarambh 2.0 India Tour, redefining live performance by blending music, poetry, and theatre into an unforgettable experience. **Where: Phoenix Marketcity, Whitefield; When: January 17, 7 pm**

End of the line for ticketless riders

Target-based checking leads to rise in detection of railway travellers without tickets, resulting in significant increase in revenue generated by South Western Railway

Sanjana CS
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@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

With ticket examiners now working under clearly defined monthly targets, the Railways has intensified ticket-checking drives across the South Western Division, leading to a rise in the detection of ticketless and irregular travel and a substantial increase in revenue during the current financial year. Railway officials point out that the performance targets set for Ticket Examiners (TEs) aimed at improving efficiency and strengthening enforcement.

According to official data, during November 2025 alone, Bengaluru's railway authorities booked 34,156 cases of ticketless and irregular travel, generating revenue of Rs 3.01 crore. In the cumulative period from April to November 2025, a total of 2,85,905 cases were detected, resulting in earnings of Rs 25.53 crore for the Bengaluru Division.

Senior railway officials said, "Much like the corporate sector, even though we are working for the government sector, the railway administration has instructed Travelling Ticket Examiners (TTEs) to meet fixed monthly targets." They said this is aimed at improving efficiency. The decision has two objectives, one is to track the work efficiency of railway employees. The role of a ticket examiner is to check how many passengers are travelling without tickets. Without regular checks and defined targets, it becomes difficult to assess whether examiners are fulfilling their responsibilities. To ensure they remain proactive, targets have been introduced and must be achieved. "If they won't reach that target then it means their work performance is down and counselling will be provided. In case if all the ticket examiners might not reach their targets, then we can understand that the violations are coming down," said the officials.

With increased passenger movement expected during upcoming peak travel period, ticket checking measures are expected to be intensified

Further elaborating, a senior railway official said the second objective is to make passengers more vigilant. The official noted that the improved performance is the result of sustained ticket-checking drives, special inspections and surprise checks conducted at stations and onboard trains. These measures are aimed at deterring unauthorised travel and ensuring compliance with railway rules. Officials added that these specific targets assigned to ticket examiners have ensured regular checks and accountability, leading to increased inspections and better utilisation of manpower.

The intensified drives involve surprise inspections on express, passenger and MEMU services, along with targeted checks at major stations including KSR Bengaluru, Yeshwanthpur, SMVT Bengaluru, Tumakuru and Mysuru. Railway officials said the surge in ticket checking is not limited to Bengaluru alone, as the South Western Railway has tightened enforcement across its entire jurisdiction. Special teams have also been deployed during peak travel hours and festival seasons, when instances of ticketless travel typically increase.

As per a recent press release, during November 2025 (FY 2025–26), South Western Railway had about 67,000 ticket-checking cases, generating a revenue of Rs 5.36 crore. This marks a 24 per cent increase in cases and a 60 per cent jump in earnings compared to November 2024 (FY 2024–25), when around 54,000 cases were booked with a revenue of Rs 3.35 crore. Cumulatively, from April 1 to November 30, 2025, SWR recorded 5.57 lakh ticket-checking cases, earning Rs 45.89 crore. In the same period last year, 4.8 lakh cases were detected, yielding Rs 32.87 crore an increase of 16 per cent in cases and 40 per cent in revenue year-on-year.

Officials say without regular checks and defined targets, it becomes difficult to assess whether TTEs are fulfilling their responsibilities

South Western Railway officials urge passengers to travel with valid tickets at all times. With increased passenger movement expected during the upcoming festive and peak travel period, SWR will continue to intensify its ticket checking measures to ensure safe, orderly, and comfortable travel for all passengers.

Perfect spot for a spot of fog

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

not require rainfall or storm systems to develop. Urban aerosols further influence its density by providing surfaces on which water vapour can condense, causing visibility to drop sharply."

It was pointed out that fog often persists in the city due to temperature inversions during winter nights. Cold, dense air gets trapped near the ground under a layer of warmer air, preventing vertical mixing. Calm winds allow this arrangement to remain stable, causing fog to linger for several hours, particularly in low-lying or open areas. Local terrain also plays a role, as cold air flows downhill and collects in depressions, while built-up areas remain slightly warmer, though pollution can make fog more opaque there.

... A few hours later

Nagaraja said, "Fog usually clears after sunrise, when solar heating weakens the inversion and allows air to mix vertically. As droplets evaporate, visibility improves rapidly. Such episodes highlight how fundamental physical processes govern everyday weather and explain why scientific understanding is essential to interpret sudden changes in temperature and visibility." Their paper stated that winter fog typically forms during late night and early morning hours under clear skies and calm winds, when rapid cooling near the ground causes air to reach saturation. Visibility can reduce suddenly to a few 100 metres or less, particularly close to sunrise, and may persist for one to three hours before clearing after sunrise.

Patil added, "During foggy conditions, reduced visibility increases the risk of road accidents. Driving at lower speeds, maintaining safe distances, and using low-beam or fog lights can improve safety. High-beam headlights should be avoided, as they reflect light back and worsen visibility. Sudden braking, overtaking, and reliance solely on vehicle tail lights should be avoided. Pedestrians and cyclists should remain cautious and visible, especially near highways and open stretches."

Nagaraja explained that fog usually clears quickly once sunlight warms the ground and disrupts the temperature inversion, restoring visibility. Being aware of these patterns can help commuters plan their travel and stay safe during winter mornings.

Govt to limit CS seats amidst admission surge?

The state government is seriously considering putting a cap on Computer Science and related BE courses, amid an unchecked surge in seats offered by private engineering colleges. Higher Education Minister Dr MC Sudhakar raised the issue during the Belagavi session, pointing out that CS-linked courses have expanded far beyond demand. Of the 1.53 lakh engineering seats approved in the state for 2024–25, as many as 99,707 seats are in Computer Science and allied streams. Last year alone, nearly 15,000 seats in government colleges went vacant, of which 9,000 to 10,000 were from computer-related courses, with a similar trend seen in private colleges as well.

The minister said this imbalance could lead to large-scale unemployment among CS graduates if left unchecked. Since AICTE has not agreed to limiting BE Computer Science seats, the state is planning to step in directly, on the lines of neighbouring Telangana, which successfully imposed a similar cap with court backing. Dr Sudhakar noted that nearly 64 per cent of engineering seats in Karnataka are now concentrated in CS and allied branches, leading to declining demand for core disciplines such as mechanical, civil and automobile engineering, with some colleges even shutting these courses. The government is expected to take a decision soon on how the cap will be enforced. **— BMB**

CRIME FILES

The sign of three: Set of thieves nabbed, crores recovered in cash and gold

Bengaluru police have cracked three separate theft cases, with an inter-state burglar confessing to 32 cases across three states, a woman's arrest leading to three theft cases being solved, and three habitual thieves being nabbed in Siddapur.

In JP Nagar, police arrested a man identified as Mehboob Khan, involved in a house burglary on 20th Main Road. The complainant, a make-up artist married to a serial actor, reported that her home was ransacked while she and her husband were away on March 17, 2025. Acting on specific intelligence, police detained the accused near a tea shop in Nagawara Circle on December 5, 2025, along with a two-wheeler. He confessed to the theft and revealed involvement in 32 cases across Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka. Authorities recovered 478 grams of gold, 1.55 kg of silver, and Rs 4.60 lakh in cash, with a total value estimated at Rs 65.28 lakh. Seven theft cases in Karnataka were solved following his arrest.

In another case, Basavanagudi police arrested 48-year-old Revathi, a guest lecturer and a native of Shivamogga, who was accused of stealing gold and cash from wedding halls by posing as a relative during auspicious ceremonies. The case came to light following a complaint on November 25, 2025, after she allegedly stole a 32-gram gold chain and a necklace worth around Rs 3 lakh. Investigation revealed Revathi had committed similar thefts in Bengaluru and Shivamogga, with six cases now registered against her. Police recovered 262 grams of gold, valued at Rs 32 lakh, from her residence and a bank in Kadubeesanahalli, where she had pledged the gold to avail loans.

Meanwhile, Siddapur police nabbed three habitual thieves, including prime accused Balaraj, who resumed criminal activities within three days of release from judicial custody. The arrests, made between December 9 and 18, recovered gold ornaments and valuables worth Rs 31.27 lakh and solved two theft cases in Siddapur. All accused have been remanded to judicial custody.

—BMB

Four students kidnapped, mobiles and cash looted

Four engineering students from a private college were allegedly kidnapped and robbed near Kada Agrahara village in Hosakote on December 21, 2025. The students had gone out to have biryani and were returning to their hostel around 5.30 am when the incident occurred. Police officials have arrested one of the accused.

According to the complaint filed at Avalahalli Police Station, the students were stopped by a group of 14-15 unknown men. The culprits allegedly beat them and took them to a shed near Medahalli. They reportedly demanded money, and when the students claimed they had none, the assailants stole three mobile phones, nearly Rs 40,000 in cash, and transferred Rs 1,10,000 from the students' bank accounts via PhonePe. In addition, a gold chain weighing around 23 grams was also taken.

The complainant, who is currently a second-year BBA student at a private college, said he delayed filing the complaint due to an exam. The victims have allegedly lost Rs 1,48,000 in cash, 4 phones valued at Rs 1,05,000, amounting to a total of nearly Rs 2,53,000. The police have registered a case of kidnapping and dacoity. One of the accused, identified as Arfath Ahmed (22), has been arrested. Police officials stated that the arrested accused has revealed the names of five other suspects. According to him, the group was attending a function when they saw the four students leaving for the washroom. They allegedly followed them, took them to a room, locked them inside, and extorted money from them. Investigation is ongoing to identify and apprehend the remaining suspects.

—BMB

Cocaine seems to be this smuggler's bread and butter

A foreign woman was arrested by the CCB Narcotics Control Unit for allegedly transporting cocaine concealed in bread packets on private buses from Mumbai to Bengaluru. Police officials seized 121 grams of the drug, a mobile phone used in the crime, and other items, valued at approximately Rs 1.20 crore.

The accused, identified as Olajide Esther Iyanuoluwa (29), a Nigerian citizen, came to India in 2024 on a student visa to pursue higher education in Delhi, but reportedly never enrolled in a college. She resided in Galanagar, Mumbai, and later in Ambawadi and Nalasopara areas. Preliminary investigations revealed that she was involved in peddling cocaine through private buses travelling from Mumbai to Bengaluru. The drugs were reportedly concealed in everyday items, such as bread packets, to avoid detection.

Police officials said she allegedly sourced the cocaine from a friend in Mumbai, who instructed her on delivery locations, allowing her to earn illegally. Based on intelligence gathered, the police tracked her to a house in Varthur. An initial inspection did not reveal any drugs, but on closer examination, a bread basket raised suspicion, "We were suspicious because how can someone travel all the way from Mumbai to Bengaluru without any luggage except for a bread basket?" CCB police said. Upon inspecting the basket, cocaine was found hidden inside slices of bread. A complaint was filed with Varthur Police Station, and a case under the NDPS Act has been registered. The accused is currently in judicial custody, and further investigation is ongoing.

In another case, the Jalahalli police arrested two out-of-state men for allegedly selling prohibited drugs near Kalingarao Circle on December 21, 2025. The accused have been identified as Nijil Raj (30) and Melvin (23), both hailing from Kerala. Acting on specific information from an informant, police intercepted the duo and seized 247 grams of cannabis and 19 grams of MDMA, valued at Rs 26.90 lakh. During interrogation, the accused admitted to sourcing the drugs from an unidentified supplier at low prices and selling them at higher rates to customers for profit.

The seized drugs and related materials were taken into custody, and a case has been registered under the NDPS Act. Both Nijil Raj and Melvin were produced before the court on the same day, which remanded them to judicial custody.

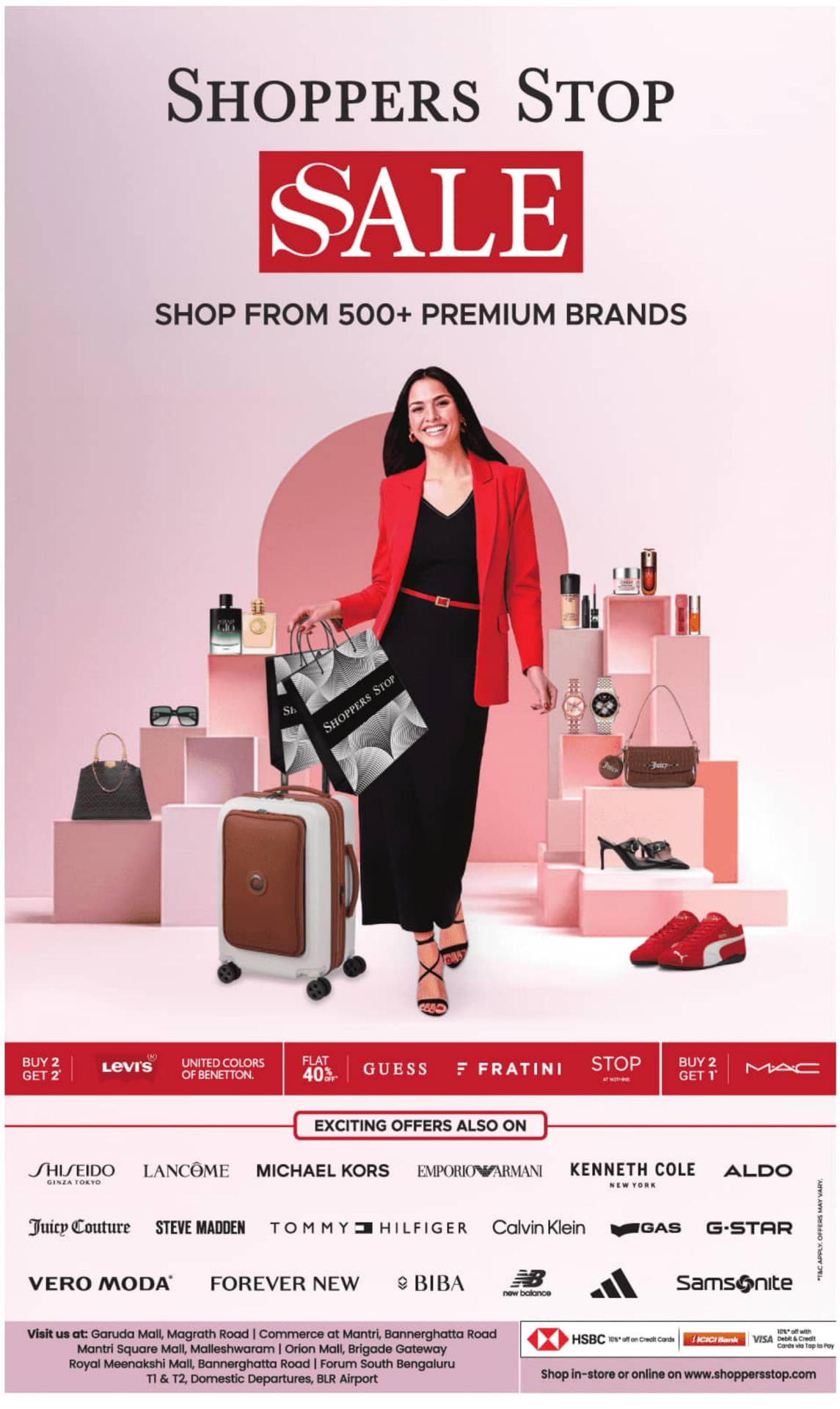
—BMB

Demolition of illegal houses leaves hundreds homeless

Scenes of devastation greeted Yelahanka's Kogilu Bande area after sheds built on land belonging to Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd were demolished, leaving over 500 families homeless. More than 150 makeshift houses were flattened, forcing residents, including children, elderly people, women and new mothers, to survive amid debris without shelter, toilets or basic facilities. With no alternative arrangements in place, families are enduring cold nights, heat and dust, as mothers feed children among broken utensils and scattered belongings.

Most affected residents are daily-wage workers who say they are now burdened with debts incurred for household expenses, medical needs and education. Several said personal and academic documents were buried under rubble, disrupting studies of students pursuing BA, BCom and LLB courses. Residents alleged the demolition was carried out in early hours without prior notice, despite possessing Aadhaar cards, ration cards and voter IDs. Protesters questioned why poor families were targeted while larger encroachments elsewhere remain untouched, demanding immediate rehabilitation, shelter and essential support.

—BMB



₹3,035 per stray dog every month on upkeep and care

In line with Supreme Court directions to shift street dogs to shelters, Bengaluru's civic bodies have decided to spend ₹3,035 per dog every month on upkeep and care. The Bengaluru South City Corporation has floated tenders inviting NGOs and agencies to capture street dogs, vaccinate them, and manage their stay in designated shelter centres. According to official estimates, Greater Bengaluru has around 2.79 lakh street dogs, based on data released in October 2023. The present tender, however, covers capture and maintenance of only 500 dogs, with costs calculated for food, shelter operations, staffing, and medical care.

Sources said each dog will be fed twice daily, with meals comprising rice, chicken, vegetables, oil, salt, and turmeric. The cost structure includes salaries for five staff members per shelter, including a veterinarian and attendants, along with expenses for medicines, cleaning materials, utilities, transport, and administrative charges. Officials said costs will be revised annually.

— BMB

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Court-First Motor Accident Claims Tribunal Ramanujganj District-Balrampur-Ramanujganj (Chhattisgarh)
Summons/Notice
Process No 347/2025 dated 19.12.2025
Upcoming Cell Date-16-01-2026
MACC No.- 29/2023
Surmend and others...applicants
Per
Thyagarajan Thangarasu and Other .....respondents
Versus: Respondent No. 2 V. Shindil Kumar Velayutham s/o Velayutham, age about 42 years, profession-boring agency operator-resident of Srikarpagam, Borewell 10 S.S.S. Welding, S.V. Road, Samraj Pet, Bangalore, Pin-560018
An application has been filed in this Tribunal by the said applicants against the non-applicants under Section 166 of the Motor Vehicles Act for compensation of Rs. 16.32,000/- (Rupees sixteen lakh thirty two thousand).
You are hereby informed through this summons/notice that you should appear in 16-01-2026 person or through an advocate who can answer all the questions in the case or who is accompanied by a person who can answer such questions, in this Court on the date-11:00 AM sharp to answer the case.
You are advised that if you do not appear on the said date, the case will be heard and decided in your absence. If the court is closed on the said date, the case will be heard on the next working day immediately following.
So today is the date: 19.12 2025 Issued under my hand and seal of the Court to be done.
Location-Ramanujganj
date-19-12-2025
Manoj Kumar Prajapati
First Mo.D.D.A., Ramanujganj District-Balrampur-Ramanujganj (Chhattisgarh)

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Rukhasana Bano Ansari W/o Abdul Haque Ansari R/o #26,2nd Main Road 2nd Cross valmiki Nagar B'lore-560026 have changed my name to Rukhsana Bano

I, Bibiana Rodriquez Joseph Benedict Thoothukudi R/o Tower 9 S3 Mana Tropicale Apt, Chikkanayakanahalli B'lore-560035 have changed my name to Bibiana Rodriquez Joseph Benedict.

I, ILYAZ R/O No 6 1st cross new market road Shivajinagar Bangalore 560051 Have changed my name to MOHAMMED ILYAS for all purposes.

I, Mohammed Moshin S/o Mohammed Yaseen R/o #61,1st Main,1st Cross, New Gurappana Palya Main Road BTM 1st stage, B'lore-560029 have changed my name to Mohammed Mohsin.

I Sadiya Nisar Pasha W/O, Nisar Pasha R/o No 6 Fortune Nest Appt T3 5th Cross Adarsha Nagar L R Bande R T Nagar Bangalore Karnataka - 560032 have changed my name to Sadiya.

I, Annapoorna Vudatha w/o A Siva Shanthi Babu, R/o House of Praise, No-1 Katha No-286/1 Dr David Chikko Road Ward No-25, Kothanu, Bengaluru-560077 Have Changed My Name To Annapoorna Atmakuri Vide Affidavit Dt: 23/12/2025 Before Notary B S Padmaprasad B'luru.

I, Komal Agrawal, R/o A101, Ramky Utsav, Seenappa Layout, New BEL Road, RMV 2nd Stage, Bengaluru - 560094, have changed my name to Komal Sumit Agrawal

I, Mohammad Zakir Hussain S/o Hyder Hussain R/o #8,32/1 3rd Cross artillery road Gowthamapuram Halasuru B'lore-560008 have changed my name to Mohammed Zakir Hussain.

I Nisar Pasha Musamiya S/O, Musamiya M R/o No 6 Fortune Nest Appt T3 5th Cross Adarsha Nagar L R Bande R T Nagar Bangalore Karnataka - 560032 have changed my name to Nisar Pasha.

I, Sreeja Sreejith, W/o Sreejith M L, R/o Sai Anjanadri Residency, Door No. 202,8th 'A' Cross,Dasappa Layout,Abbaiah Reddy Layout, Kaggadasapura, C. V. Raman Nagar Post,Bengaluru, Karnataka-560093, hereby declare that I have changed my name from Sreeja Rajan to SREEJA SREEJITH for all purposes

I Kavitha Chavan W/O, Ashok Krishna Chavan R/o Unit-2 2nd Cross Nandanam Colony Banaswadi Hennur Main Road Bangalore -560043 have changed my name to Kavitha Ashok Chavan .

I, Osama Mohammad Osman Shaikh R/o Amigo Estella, 87/3, Flat C 413, GKVK Road Thanisandra, Hegdenagar, Bengaluru 560077, have changed my name to Osama Shaikh Muhammad Osman for all purposes.

I, Sambit Kumar Dash, S/o Ashok Kumar Dash, 50, No: 806, B-Block, 79/8 Sindhu Amazon Apt, Bellandur, Bangalore-560103, have changed my name from Sambit Kumar Das to Sambit Kumar Dash in my driving licence, as per Affidavit No. 694 dated 24/07/2025 sworn before Notary Public P Nanjuda."

I, K H CHANDRIKA, K CHANDRIKA, H CHANDRIKA, Residing at No 122, 10th Main Road, Jayanagar 1st Block, Bangalore-560011, I here by declare that my correct name C H CHANDRIKA, vide affidavit dtd 23/12/2025 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Bangalore

I, CHETHAN P, S/o. Putte Gowda, R/at No.716, 5th Main, 4th Cross, Near Papamma Cho ultry, Triveni road, Yeshwanth apur, Bangalore-560022, I here by confirming MANJULA T and MANJULA T D, both the names belongs to my mother only, vide affidavit dt: 22/12/2025 Notary A. Manjula, B.lore.

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Qualification: Ph.D with specialization is prerequisite as per AICTE norms.
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Department: CSE / AIML/ CE/ ISE.
Qualification: As per AICTE norms.
Examination custodian / Clerk
Qualification: Any Degree With 5 Years of Experience.
System Admin -
Qualification: BE in CSE / ISE / MCA with 5 years experience in Hardware and Software troubleshooting.
Programmer - Department: CSE/AIML/CE/ISE
Qualification: BE in CSE / ISE / MCA with good Programming Skills.
Technical staff - Foreman:
B.E / Diploma with 1 to 2 years of experience.
Instructor:
Diploma (CSE) B.Sc(CS) / BCA with 1 to 2 years of experience, Helpers: PUC / SSLC.
Salary and allowances :
Teaching Staff - AICTE Pay Scale as per Institution norms Higher Remuneration shall be considered for deserving candidates. Technical staff suitable salary, as per the Institution norms,

Interested candidates can send the CV along with copies of all the certificates to the Principal on or before 09/01/2026 through post / E-Mail.

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GET NOTICED

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ಬಜಾರ್
Meena
BAZAR
Arts, Crafts, Handlooms & Lifestyle Exhibition
CHRISTMAS & MAKARA SANKRANTI SHOPPING SPECIAL
19TH DEC 2025 TO 4TH JAN 2026
10.30 AM - 8.30 PM | 17 DAYS EXHIBITION
VENUE:
WHITE HOUSSE CONVENTION CENTRE
NEXT TO BDA COMPLEX, SECTOR 6, 14TH MAIN, HSR LAYOUT, BENGALURU - 560 102
70+ STALLS | 50+ CRAFTSMAN
ENTRY FREE & PARKING FREE
For Details Contact : 6364685716 / 9036658774
HANDLOOMS | HOME DECOR | HANDICRAFTS | CLOTHING | JEWELLERY

'Suspicion can't replace proof'

The Karnataka High Court has overturned a life sentence, acquitting a man of murdering his wife. A Division Bench of Justices KS Mudagal and Venkatesh Naik held that the prosecution failed to establish a complete chain of circumstantial evidence linking Arun Kumar to the crime.

"The chain of events is laden with deficiencies, creating gaps and alternative hypotheses. Due to such missing links, a finding of guilt cannot be recorded," the court said. Kumar was convicted under Sections 498A, 120B, 109, 302, and 201, read with Section 34 of the IPC. Ramya's body, found in December 2014, was severely disfigured, and no DNA testing confirmed her identity. The High Court noted the isolated location of the body and flaws in the prosecution's circumstantial evidence, including reliance on motive and witness testimonies. "There is no eyewitness. Suspicion cannot replace proof," the court emphasised, setting aside the trial court judgment and ordering Kumar's acquittal. —BMB

IN COURT

Government wins power control case

The Karnataka High Court has held that the State government is empowered to issue directions to power generation units operating within Karnataka during extraordinary or emergency situations to safeguard public interest. A Division Bench comprising Justice Anu Sivaraman and Justice Rajesh Rai K upheld the State's authority under Section 11 of the Electricity Act, 2003, which allows the government to regulate supply, distribution, and use of electricity in times of crisis. The ruling came while allowing an appeal filed by the State against an earlier single judge order that had set aside a directive issued in October 2023. The order required power generators to operate at maximum exportable capacity and supply electricity to the grid at interim tariff. The court observed that such generators are part of the State's power infrastructure and do not have absolute rights to operate without State oversight during emergencies. —BMB

Cafe investigation comes to halt

The Karnataka High Court has stayed further investigation into a food contamination complaint filed against the promoters of Rameshwaram Café in Bengaluru. The interim order was passed after the café management approached the court, challenging the registration of the case.

During the hearing, the petitioners contended that the complaint was malicious and lacked specific allegations, and that the FIR did not disclose the basic ingredients necessary to constitute the alleged offences. They argued that continuing the probe would amount to an abuse of the legal process.

After considering the submissions, the High Court observed that the issues raised by the petitioners require closer scrutiny and granted an interim stay on the investigation. The court also issued notices to the complainant and the state government, seeking their response in the matter.

Rameshwaram Cafe called social media claims misleading, reaffirmed strict hygiene standards, and warned of possible legal action. The court stay remains until further review. —BMB

Techie smells rat, evades digital arrest just in time

Fake TRAI callers use personal data and WhatsApp pressure to stage virtual police scare in Bengaluru

Atiya Firdos
c-syeda.atiya@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Software professional thwarts scam by alerting police after suspicious fund transfer demands; offenders booked under IT Act and BNS provisions

At a time when cyber fraudsters are increasingly trapping unsuspecting citizens using fear-driven tactics, a Bengaluru-based software professional narrowly escaped becoming a victim of a "digital arrest" scam after her timely suspicion prevented a potential financial loss.

According to the complaint, the incident took place on December 12, when the techie received multiple calls from unknown numbers, with the callers claiming to be officials from the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). The callers alleged that her mobile number was linked to illegal activities and warned her of imminent legal consequences.

In an attempt to intimidate the complainant and make the threat appear legitimate, the caller cited specific personal details. The complaint stated that the caller disclosed details related to the complainant's travel movements, office location and residential address, giving the impression of official surveillance. She was then instructed to immediately contact the Maharashtra Cyber Crime Police and record her statement through WhatsApp, a method increasingly used by fraudsters to simulate formal legal proceedings.

During the WhatsApp interaction, the accused allegedly impersonated police officials and claimed that the complainant's bank accounts required verification as part of the investigation. She was asked to transfer money from her bank account to accounts provided by the caller, with repeated assurances that the funds would be returned once the verification process was completed.

However, what ultimately raised suspicion was the informal and irregular nature of the procedure, particularly the demand to transfer money and the use of WhatsApp for official communication. Realising that no law enforcement agency verifies bank accounts by asking citizens to move funds, the complainant refused to comply and immediately approached the police.

Her prompt action ensured that no money was transferred, resulting in a narrow escape from what police describe as a well-orchestrated digital arrest scam.

Based on the complaint, a case has been registered under Sections 66(C) and 66(D) of the Information Technology Act, which deal with identity theft and cheating by personation using computer resources, along with Section 318(4) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

Police officials said the case serves as a reminder that cyber fraudsters often rely on panic, impersonation of authority and urgency to trap victims. They urged citizens to remain vigilant, avoid answering calls from unknown numbers claiming legal action, and remember that no government or police agency conducts investigations or bank verifications over phone calls, WhatsApp or video calls.

Authorities have advised the public to immediately report such incidents to cybercrime police, reiterating that awareness and timely judgement remain the strongest defence against digital fraud.

IN BRIEF

Cops block Chinnaswamy clash

Cricket won't return to M Chinnaswamy Stadium yet. Police Commissioner Seemanth Kumar Singh confirmed permission for Wednesday's Vijay Hazare Trophy match was denied, even without spectators. KSCA's request was rejected after a safety inspection by a Home Minister-led committee. The ban follows the June 4 stampede during RCB celebrations that killed 11, with authorities demanding full safety compliance before matches resume.

Panel inspection

The committee led by GBA Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao, including officials from police, PWD, Fire, Health, and BESCOM, inspected the stadium on Monday and recommended against holding the match. "Permission has been rejected. There will be no match at Chinnaswamy tomorrow," Singh told reporters. The match will now be held at the BCCI Centre of Excellence near Kempegowda International Airport, sources said.

Safety first

The government's caution follows the Cunha Commission's findings on the June 4 stampede, which deemed the stadium's design unsafe for crowds and recommended major changes, including better entry/exit points, queuing zones, evacuation plans, and parking. Home Minister Parameshwara noted the police had issued a 17-point safety checklist to KSCA, but several fire safety and crowd management measures remain incomplete, prompting the government's strict stance.

Government stand

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah underlined that any future permission to hold matches at Chinnaswamy would hinge entirely on adherence to the Cunha Commission's recommendations. "If the recommendations are complied with, permission will be given," he said, adding that the Home Minister's committee would take the final call. Asked about the specific denial for the Vijay Hazare Trophy match, the Chief Minister said the matter was being handled by the Home Department.

Mixed signals

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who also holds the Bengaluru Development portfolio, said he was unaware of the decision and would discuss it with the Home Minister. Expressing support for hosting cricket in the city, he said Bengaluru's pride should be protected but security concerns must be addressed. "Matches should be allowed with necessary conditions. There is no chance of untoward incidents if safety is ensured," he said. —BMB

Lawyers oppose Saturday sittings

The Bengaluru Advocates' Association has firmly opposed the proposal to conduct full High Court sittings on two Saturdays every month, which is planned to be implemented from January 2026. The decision was taken unanimously at the Association's general body meeting held on December 16.

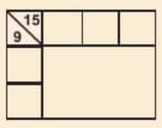
In a statement, Association president AV Subbareddy warned that if the proposal is enforced, lawyers would stay away from court proceedings. He said uninterrupted work would have an adverse impact on lawyers' health and expressed disappointment that the Association's concerns had not been considered by the Chief Justice.

The Association said it would convene another general body meeting in the same week that the Saturday sittings are announced, if no positive decision emerges, to decide on further action, including protests. It also flagged delays in judicial appointments, warning that continued inaction by the Karnataka High Court collegium in recommending advocates for judgeship within the next two months would trigger protests. Representatives of advocates' associations from the Bengaluru, Dharwad and Kalaburagi benches are expected to meet Supreme Court judges BV Nagarathna and Aravind Kumar soon to discuss the issue. —BMB

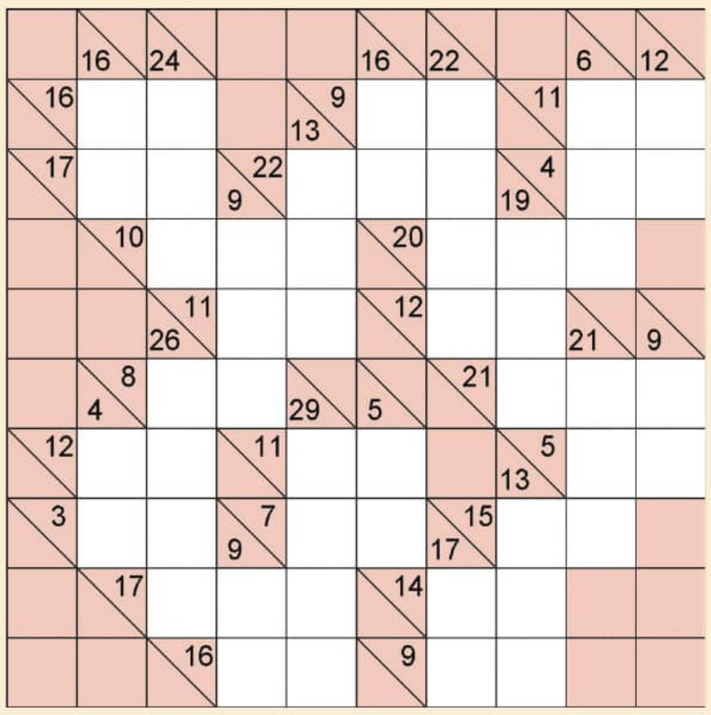
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
facebook.com/theBangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

Kakuro

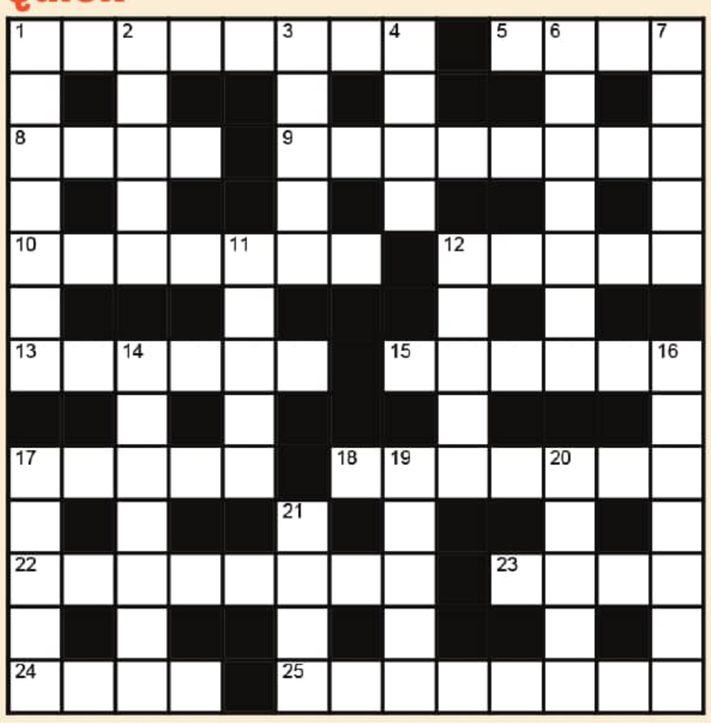
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Degree holder (8)
5 Long foot journey (4)
8 Betting machine (4)
9 City in Saurashtra (8)
10 Cherished prizes for the bowlers? (7)
12 Holy river for us Indians (5)
13 Obedient employee (3-3)
15 Worlds largest country (6)
17 Grecian Urn poet (5)
18 Act in advance of others (3-4)
22 Dame Fortune? (4,4)
23 Unchanged (2,2)
24 Hand ornament (4)
25 Baked and crusty eatables (8)

DOWN

1 Means of access-literally and figuratively? (7)
2 Foolish behaviour (5)
3 Take ___ __ : shoot? (3,2)
4 You too in Latin (2,2)
6 Frets or is discontented (7)
7 South ___: Seouls country (5)
11 School tests (5)
12 Measuring instrument (5)
14 Observe scrupulously; be insistent about? (5,2)
16 Affirms (7)
17 Gold mines 100 kms out of the city (5)
19 Libertines (5)
20 Inter Miami and Argentina striker (5)
21 Intersection of two curves (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: P EQUALS G

CQO QMJGD KNAR LB OBBODCLGHHR BNJOCQLDP NCQOX CQGD GD GDLJGH NXPGDLBJ.

Linemaro

You've got to be kitten me. You're purr-fect

Mindchow

Great endowments often announce themselves in youth in the form of singularity and awkwardness

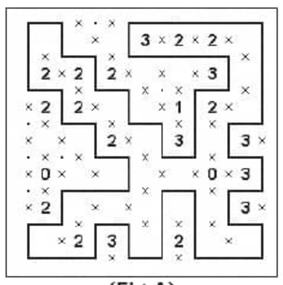
Joke of the day

Never do today that which will become someone else's responsibility tomorrow

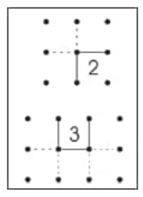
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

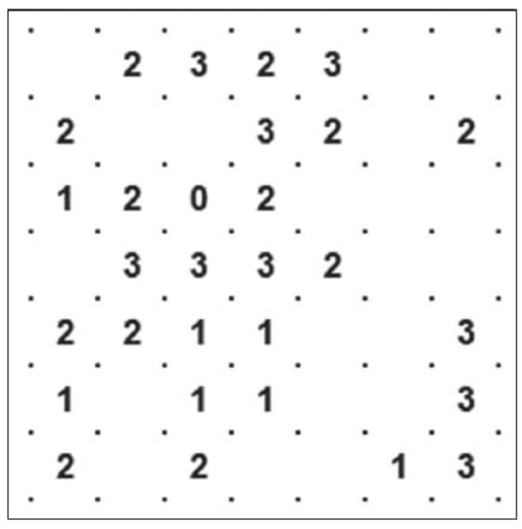


(Fig B) Not Allowed

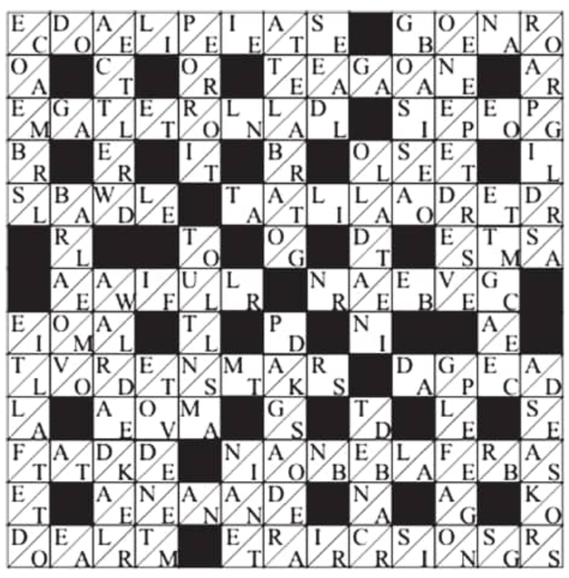
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



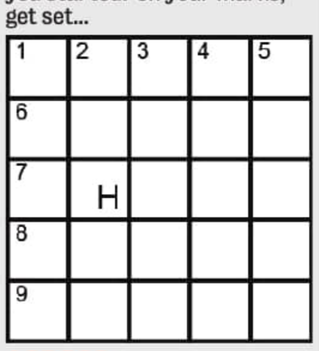
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

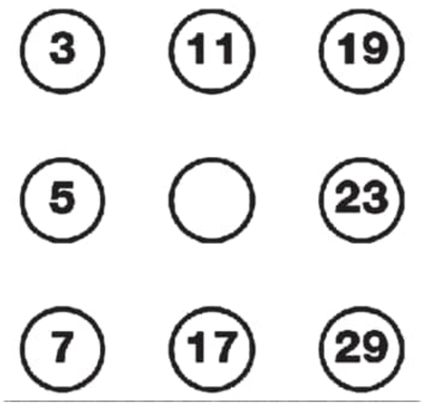
1 Says a; 6 Paces; 7 NHS us; 8 Me EEC; 9 So say

DOWN

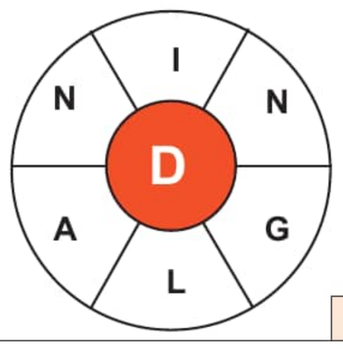
1 SS Sea; 2 C ohms; 3 Us cay; 4 An ape; 5 Essey

Mensapuzzle

Which number logically goes in the centre of this puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

06 Average; **07** Good; **09** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	6	3				7	4	
5	7		2		6		3	8
7		5		2		8		9
	1						5	
6		4		9		2		1
8	2		3		4		9	6
	5	9				1	8	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 18

5 7 8 8

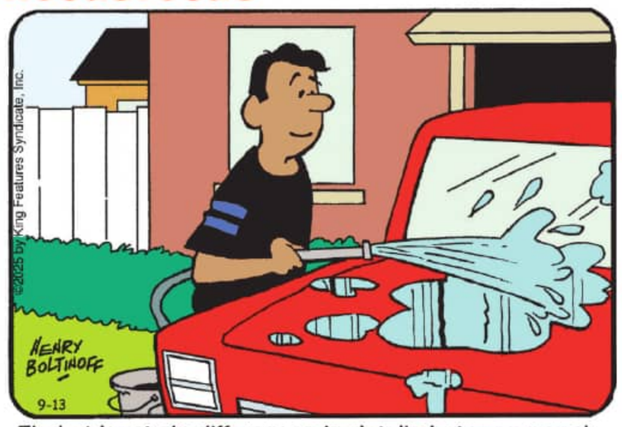
Medium = 2

2 2 3 8

Hard = 64

2 6 7 8

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

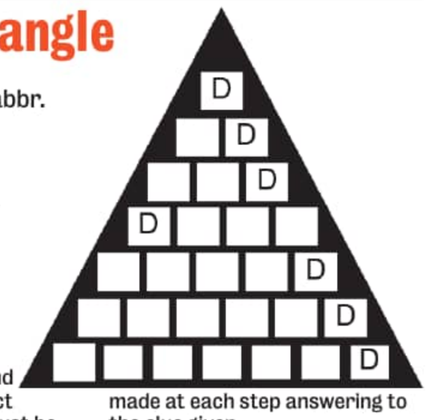
Differences: 1. Nozzle is smaller. 2. Taillight is different. 3. Portion of hose is not visible. 4. Fence board is lower. 5. Rear window is different. 6. Frame is added around window.

Riddler

She so peaceful, yet causes fear Him so bright and full of cheer She rests the body, he wakes the soul Him so light, she black as coal Her with mole and tiny bright freckles He covers us with tiny tear speckles She hides us, he beams with pride He her husband, she his bride He in bright silk, her all in velvet A yin-yang marriage as they tell it Two lovers who meet but twice a day When he must go, she need stay Now I ask you, who are they?

Alpha triangle

1 Fourth letter
2 Advertisement, abbr.
3 Little bit
4 Go out with
5 Made replete
6 Looked fixedly at
7 Flight attendant



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

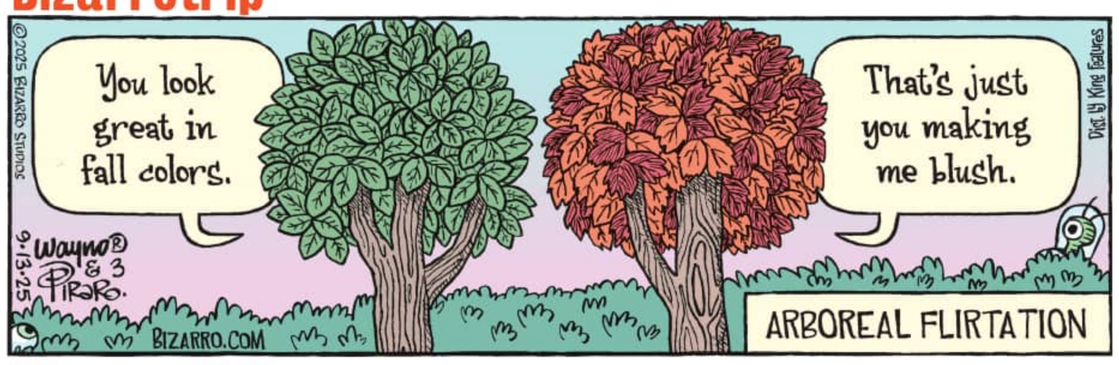
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye

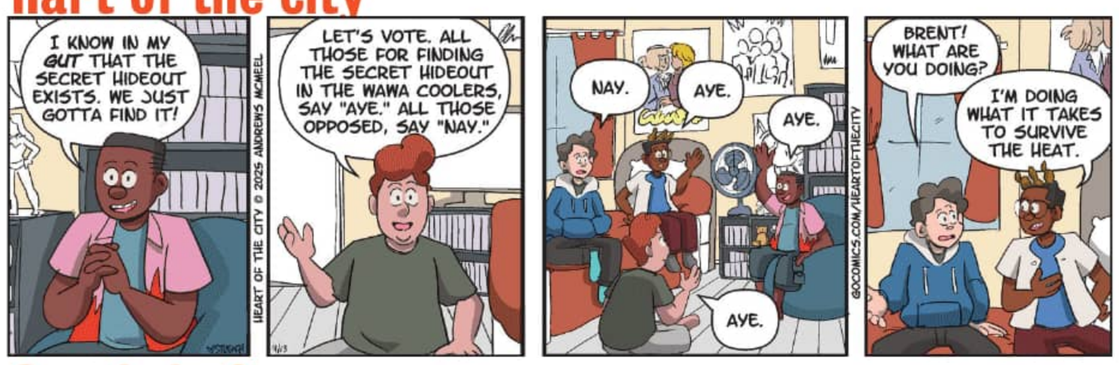
MISS OYL IS ENGAGED TO A KING ?
'AT'S RIGHT! THEY IS GO'NER GIT MARRIED!
WHAT ABOUT YOU? YOU CAN'T STAND BY AND LET ANOTHER MAN STEAL YOUR WOMAN!
3-25
YA IS A STUPID CLOD, WIMPY! YA KNOWS NOTHIN' ABOUT LOVE! WHEN YA LOVES SOMEONE YA DOESN'T STAN' IN THEIR WAY OF B'COMIN' A BLASTID ROYAL QUEEN!
I COULDN'T EVEN MAKE HER CAPTING OF ME SHIP ON ACCOUNT OF I IS ALREADY ITS CAPTING!
popeye.com

Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil

Hart of the city


I KNOW IN MY GUT THAT THE SECRET HIDEOUT EXISTS. WE JUST GOTTA FIND IT!
LET'S VOTE. ALL THOSE FOR FINDING THE SECRET HIDEOUT IN THE WAWA COOLERS, SAY "AYE." ALL THOSE OPPOSED, SAY "NAY."
NAY.
AYE.
AYE.
AYE.
BRENT! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I'M DOING WHAT IT TAKES TO SURVIVE THE HEAT.
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

HI-FI, SHORT-WAVE SET, REFRIGERATOR! WHAT ELSE HAS THE HEAP GOT, FLATTOP?
A TV SET!
CERTAINLY. GETS ALL CHANNELS LOUD AND CLEAR.
THERE MUST BE AN OUTLET BEHIND THE HEADBOARD!
THEY'RE ONTO US!
tombatiuk.com/books

Mutts

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

Dr SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

A quiet, traditional atmosphere suits the Goat today. Use this time for meaningful connection with family or established mentors rather than flashy socialising. Wisdom flows from those who have walked the path before you. A practical gift or thoughtful gesture will mean more than extravagance. Ground your ambitions in genuine gratitude for your support system.

Aries Mar 21–Apr 20
Break routine and take a restorative holiday, invite a friend to reconnect. Use the pause to seek peace before returning to work, letting relaxation replenish energy and clarity for upcoming tasks.

Taurus Apr 21–May 20
Pursue your newfound interest through learning, a skill could elevate your career or lead to better job prospects. Embrace study with curiosity to grow professionally and open doors to new opportunities.

Gemini May 21–Jun 21
Unexpected romantic gestures may surprise you, accept affection gracefully and enjoy heartfelt confessions. Smile, stay open, and let sincere advances add warmth and gentle excitement to your day and relationships.

Cancer Jun 22–July 23
Your work focus has felt critical; tone down sharpness with loved ones. Be mindful of how criticism lands, soften delivery and listen, preserving harmony while expressing necessary care for those close to you.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
If feeling low, take time alone to recover; distancing prevents mood-driven conflicts. Recharge privately, protect loved ones from negativity, and return when you feel more centered and ready to reengage.

Virgo Aug 24–Sep 23
Don't rush love, let connections develop organically. Patience invites authentic relationships rather than forcing companionship. Allow time and natural progression to guide meaningful emotional bonds without unnecessary haste.

Libra Sep 24–Oct 22
Seek advice from someone younger; fresh perspectives offer modern, useful insights. Embrace new viewpoints to adapt and grow, intergenerational wisdom helps solve current dilemmas with contemporary relevance.

Scorpio Oct 23–Nov 22
Break free from routine and explore new possibilities, take calculated risks aligned with your interests. Change can open doors to happiness; courageously pursue paths that better reflect your evolving desires.

Sagittarius Nov 23–Dec 22
Express feelings to someone special, take the risk and speak honestly. You may be pleasantly surprised by their response; vulnerability can lead to rewarding emotional connections and deeper mutual understanding.

Capricorn Dec 23–Jan 20
Build new connections by reaching out to unfamiliar people. Networking expands opportunities and enriches social circles. Valuable relationships often start with small steps, initiate conversations and observe.

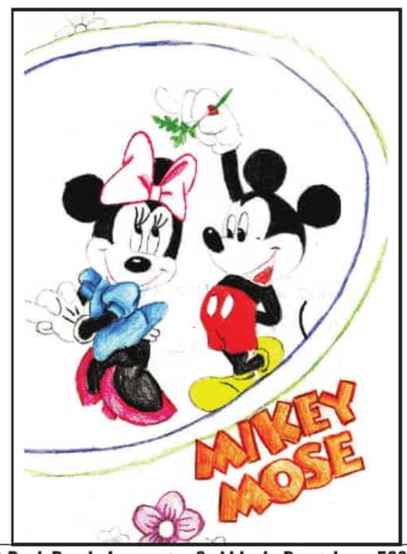
Aquarius Jan 21–Feb 19
Capture memories today, take photos and note moments to treasure. Documenting joys creates lasting reminders of fun, inspiration, and connection, preserving experiences to revisit and share later with fondness.

Pisces Feb 20–Mar 20
Stop procrastinating and finish tasks now, productivity peaks today. Tackle the project you delayed; checking it off your list clears mental space and fosters satisfying completion before year-end pressures arrive.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE

Harin, Bengaluru



Janani, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
((2^(24/4))+68) / √121=
(2^6+68) / 11=
(64+68) / 11=
132 / 11=
12

STRIKE OUT

C	O	A	L	P	I	T	S		B	O	A	R		
O		C		O		E	A	G	A	N		A		
M	A	T	E	R	N	A	L		S	E	E	P		
B		E		T		B		O	S	T		I		
S	A	D	E		T	A	I	L	O	R	E	D		
	L			T		G		D		E	M	S		
A	W	F	U	L		R	E	B	E	C				
I	M	A		L		P		N		E	D			
L	O	D	E	S	T	A	R		A	G	E	D		
F	A	K	E		N	O	B	B	L	E	R	S		
E		A	N	A	N	D		A		K		E		
D	A	R	T		E	A	R	R	I	N	G	S		

QUICK

G	R	A	D	U	A	T	E		T	R	E	K		
A		N				I			E			O		
T	O	T	E		M	I	T	H	A	P	U	R		
E		I			A			U		I		E		
W	I	C	K	E	T	S		G	A	N	G	A		
A				X				E						
Y	E	S	M	A	N		R	U	S	S	I	A		
	T			M				G				T		
K	E	A	T	S		P	R	E	E	M	P	T		
O		N			C			A			E			
L	A	D	Y	L	U	C	K		A	S	I	S		
	L			O				C						
R	I	N	G		P	A	S	T	R	I	E	S		

MENSA PUZZLE
13. Going down the columns, moving left to right, numbers follow the sequence of prime numbers.

QUOTE UNCODE
The human body is essentially something other than an animal organism.

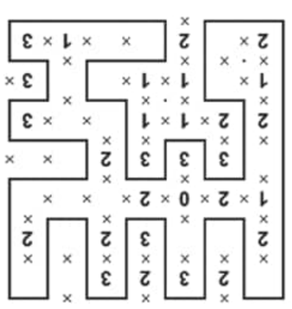
SUDOKU

3	5	9	6	7	2	1	8	4
8	2	7	3	1	4	5	9	6
1	4	6	9	5	8	3	2	7
6	8	4	5	9	3	2	7	1
9	1	2	8	6	7	4	5	3
7	3	5	4	2	1	8	6	9
4	9	8	7	3	5	6	1	2
5	7	1	2	4	6	9	3	8
2	6	3	1	8	9	7	4	5

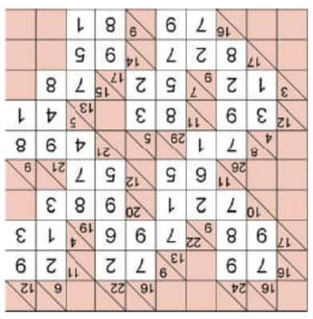
ALPHA TRIANGLE
D, AD, Tad, Date, Sated, Stared, Steward.

GO FIGURE
7 + 8 + 8 − 5 = 18
3 + 2 x 2 − 8 = 2
7 x 8 + 2 + 6 = 64
Easy
Medium
Hard

LOOP



KAKURO



FAST FIVE

S	O	Y	A	S
E	M	C	E	E
S	H	U	N	S
S	C	A	P	E
A	S	S	A	Y

BULL'S EYE
dial, ding, gill, glad, gland, inland, laid, land, LANDING

RIDDLER
Day and Night

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Waste burning continues steps away from power corridors

Survey Department campus near Vidhana Soudha witnesses repeated garbage burning despite clear bans and enforcement rules

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Top: Accumulated garbage on a portion of the Survey Settlement and Land Records Office
Below: Garbage is being burnt in front of Survey Settlement and Land Records Department

Burning garbage at public places is an offence, and authorities are mandated to take action against those responsible. However, waste continues to be burnt on the premises of the Department of Survey Settlement and Land Records, located just a few hundred metres from Vidhana Soudha and Vikasa Soudha, raising serious concerns about enforcement and accountability.

A section of the department's premises resembles an informal dumping yard, with various kinds of waste strewn across the area. When this correspondent visited the location, smoke was billowing from burning dry waste and leaves at three different points within the compound. The open burning was taking place in plain sight, posing environmental and health risks.

When questioned, a few employees of the Survey Settlement and Land Records Department shifted responsibility, alleging that outsiders were dumping garbage on the premises. "A few pedestrians and two-wheeler riders throw garbage from Nrupathunga Road in the morning and at night," said one employee, requesting anonymity. Despite these claims, the accumulation of waste suggested prolonged neglect.

Visitors to the office expressed shock at the unhygienic conditions. "It is the responsibility of the officer in charge of maintaining the premises to ensure regular clearance of accumulated garbage. The government spends time and money creating awareness about proper waste disposal, but some lazy and lethargic employees continue to burn garbage," said Prabhakar N, a visitor.

Environmental activist Vinod Jacob voiced serious concern over the lack of waste management discipline within government offices and public institutions. "It is disheartening to see that the government often fails to follow the very practices it advocates," he said. He stressed the need for sustained awareness programmes among government staff to ensure proper waste segregation and disposal. Jacob warned that burning waste leads to severe air pollution and poses significant health hazards, especially for those exposed to toxic fumes.

The presence of accumulated garbage, particularly single-use plastic, indicates that Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) authorities may have overlooked the ongoing issue of waste burning at the premises. "I expect BSWML officials to act impartially. They have been active in dumping truckloads of waste in front of houses or apartment complexes for dumping waste on roads. I want them to take similar action against those burning waste and dry leaves here," said Shankar Murthy S, a visitor to the nearby Public Works Department office.

When contacted, an official of the Survey Settlement and Land Records Department said he would inform the officer responsible for maintaining the premises.

> **"I want the BSWML authorities to take action against those responsible for burning waste and dry leaves on Survey Settlement and Land Records Department premises**
> – N Shankar Murthy S, visitor

Meanwhile, BSWML Assistant General Manager Janardhan said he had already warned the workers assigned to maintain the premises. "I sent two auto tippers to clear the accumulated garbage. I will ensure the premises are cleaned. I will also issue a notice to the department if workers continue burning waste," he said.

Staff crunch ongoing for 5 years

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Appointments or posts in the services under the State) Act, 2022. All recruitments are thus on hold till further orders.

Long crunch time

Notably, KSPCB has been dealing with staff crunch for many years. In March 2024, the Board informed the National Green Tribunal that nearly 60% of its total sanctioned staff posts were unoccupied. Out of 723 posts, 433 were lying vacant, with only 290 occupied. There were 73% vacancies under the scientific staff category and 48 percent vacancy under the technical staff category.

In 2020, a performance audit report by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) had highlighted that in a severe manpower crunch, more than 50% of scientific and technical posts at KSPCB were unoccupied. As per the report, over 60% of administrative posts were not filled.

"The Board is suffering from this issue due to a lack of attention. Too many officers have retired, leading to the existing situation. However, necessary steps have been taken to fill the vacancies so the Board can function in optimal condition," added Narendraswamy. City-based environmentalists say the issue of staff crunch at KSPCB needs to be addressed fast, as the Board is responsible for ensuring that citizens' right to access to clean drinking water and clean air is not being violated.

"If the Board is reeling under staff crunch since the last five years at least, it is highly likely that it is unable to perform its basic and necessary function of abating every form of pollution. Clean air and water are fundamental to life, and our Constitution has given this fundamental right to every citizen. Understaffed state pollution control boards will only lead to violation of this right," said a city-based environmentalist.

Notably, a few days ago, the Union environment ministry informed the Parliament that about 45% of the scientific and technical posts in pollution control boards and committees across the country are vacant.

Blue Squad cuts 70 illegal water links in a day

BWSSB's newly formed 'Blue Squad' disconnected 70 illegal water connections in a single day as part of a citywide crackdown. Since its launch on November 18, the special task force has inspected over 4,000 premises and detected hundreds of unauthorised connections. On December 20 alone, teams inspected 237 buildings across the city's four zones and cut off illegal supplies on the spot. The highest number of violations was found in the South Zone, where 33 illegal connections were disconnected after inspections at 61 buildings. This was followed by the East Zone with 18 disconnections, the West Zone with 15 and the North Zone with four. BWSSB officials said the Blue Squad was formed to curb water theft and revenue loss, warning that those with unauthorised connections must regularise them immediately or face penalties and legal action. **— BMB**

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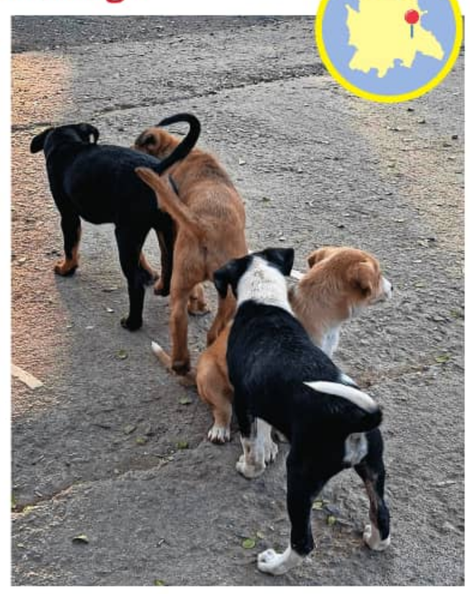
Road hazard

Shampura

A BWSSB excavation on Ambedkar Medical College Road in Shampura has remained unrepaired for six months, leading to frequent accidents, traffic congestion, and commuter hardship.

Littered road

Lal Bagh



Multiple litters of puppies observed in Lal Bagh, reflecting continued neglect of the ABC program despite Supreme Court directives.

Pedestrian peril

Doddanekkundi

Overgrown trees and mud-choked footpaths near Bagmane Capital Tech Park in Doddanekkundi are forcing pedestrians onto busy, two-wheeler-dominated roads.

Honouring the legacy of our beloved former Prime Minister, Bharat Ratna Late Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, aligned with the **Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi**'s vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, and under the guidance of Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce and Industry, on the eve of **Sushasan Divas**,

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सुशासन दिवस 2025

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